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Message Text

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63
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 AGR-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 COME-00 ST-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 TRSE-00

STR-04 OMB-01 CIEP-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER
USDA - MR. DOBBINS
L/NEA:KHUFFMAN
NEA/RA:DMORRISON (INFO)
EB/CBA:JNESVIG
---------- 025079
R 240234Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, KU

SUBJECT:FOOD EXHIBIT IN KUWAIT

1. ARP DIRECTOR DICKMAN ACCOMPANIED BY USDA DEP ASST ADMINISTRATOR MINYARD AND DIRECTOR OF USDA EXPORT TRADE SERVICES DIVISION DOBBINS CALLED ON KUWAITI AMBASSADOR JAFFAR JANUARY 22 TO DISCUSS APPLICATION OF ARAB BOYCOTT PROVISIONS TO PROPOSED FOOD EXHIBIT, NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12-15 AT KUWAIT HILTON. AMBASSADOR INFORMED THAT 35 TO 40 FIRMS WERE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE BUT AS SPONSOR OF FAIR, USDA WOULD ARRANGE FOR CONSOLIDATION OF ALL PRODUCTS TO BE DISPLAYED AND UTILIZE US DESPATCH AGENT TO PREPARE SHIPPING DOCUMENTS AND FORWARD SHIPMENT.

2. USDA HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT SHIPPING DOCUMENTS WOULD REQUIRE CERTIFICATION THAT "PRODUCTS NOT OF ISRAELI ORIGIN
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NOR DID THEY CONTAIN ISRAELI MATERIAL OR FROM ANY PRODUCT

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EXPORTED BY ISRAEL", AS WELL AS CERTIFICATES THAT NEITHER
THE CARRIER NOR THE INSURANCE FIRM WAS ON THE BLACKLIST.
GIVEN FACT THAT A CONDITION FOR PARTICIPATION IN USDA FOOD
FAIR WAS THAT PRODUCTS BE COMPOSED OF INGREDIENTS PRODUCED
AND PROCESSED IN US, THAT PRODUCTS WOULD BE SHIPPED BY AIR
CARGO FROM NEW YORK TO LONDON BY US CARRIER AND BY KUWAIT
AIR FROM LONDON TO KUWAIT, AND THAT SINCE USG ARRANGING

SHIPMENT, NO INSURANCE INVOLVED, WE DID NOT SEE APPLICA-
BILITY OF POINTS TO BE COVERED IN CERTIFICATION. AMBAS-
SADOR WAS FURTHER INFORMED THAT, AS WE HOPED HE WOULD
UNDERSTAND, ANY CERTIFICATION ALONG LINES NOTED ABOVE
WOULD CREATE UNACCEPTABLE LINKAGE BETWEEN USG AGENCY AND
BOYCOTT ENFORCEMENT AND THEREFORE COULD NOT BE FURNISHED
BY USDA.

3. AFTER POINTING OUT SIMILAR ISSUE HAD ARISEN WITH OTHER
ARAB COUNTRY WHERE PROCUREMENT MADE BY USG AGENCY, AMBAS-
SADOR WAS ASKED IF EMBASSY WOULD PROCESS AND GOK APPROVE
SHIPPING DOCUMENTS WITH POSITIVE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN
FROM USDA WHICH INDICATED THAT US COUNTRY OR ORIGIN AS
WELL AS STATEMENT INDICATING CARRIER AND PORTS OF CALL.
IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, USG REPS POINTED OUT
THAT CONSIGNEE WOULD BE KUWAIT HILTON RATHER THAN EMBASSY
KUWAIT BECAUSE HOTEL CONSTANTLY BRINGING IN FOOD SHIPMENTS
AND HAS NECESSARY STORAGE FACILITIES.

4. AMBASSADOR JAFFAR SAID HE WOULD TRY TO HELP AND ASKED
USDA TO FURNISH HIM WITH AN EXAMPLE OF SHIPPING DOCUMENTS
AND CERTIFICATION IT PROPOSED WHICH HE COULD REPORT TO HIS
GOVERNMENT. RECALLING HIS EXPERIENCE AS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
BEFORE COMING TO US, AMBASSADOR ALSO ASKED FOR TEXT OF
CERTIFICATION WHICH EMBASSY KUWAIT FURNISHES GOK IN
CLEARING SHIPMENTS WHICH HE THOUGHT COULD BE HELPFUL SINCE
IT IS ACCEPTED BY KUWAIT CUSTOMS. WHILE NOT CLEAR WHY HE
ASKED FOR THIS INFORMATION AND WE POINTED OUT THAT WE
THOUGHT THIS WAS USED ONLY TO CERTIFY ITEMS ARE FOR
EMBASSY USE, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY FURNISHING DEPT TEXTS
OF ANY CERTIFICATIONS IT USES TO CLEAR SHIPMENTS THROUGH
KUWAITI CUSTOMS.
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5. AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID IT WAS HIS RECOLLECTION THAT
ITEMS IMPORTED FOR FAIRS INTO KUWAIT BROKEN DOWN
INTO TWO CATEGORIES. FIRST WAS CONSUMABLES WHICH NOT
SUBJECT TO DUTY BUT WHICH REQUIRED SOME KIND OF CERTIFICATE
THAT THEY WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR PROMOTION PURPOSES AND
NON-CONSUMABLES WHICH REQUIRE A CERTIFICATE THAT DUTY
WOULD BE PAID IF NOT RE-EXPORTED WITHIN A SPECIFIC TIME

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PERIOD. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ALSO INFORMING US WHAT GOK CUSTOMS APPLY TO IMPORT OF EXHIBIT MATERIALS.

6. IN VIEW OF NEED TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXHIBIT WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS, WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT RESPONSE TO ABOVE QUESTIONS. WOULD ALSO WELCOME EMBASSY ASSESSMENT WHETHER SHIPPIMG DOCUMENTS WITH POSITIVE CERTIFICATION SUCH AS MENTION PARA 3 ABOVE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE018273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FMDICKMAN:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0974
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760124/aaaaavfa.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

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04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OOD EXHIBIT IN KUWAIT
TAGS: BEXP, KU
To: KUWAIT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006